by the State Government. ICAR provides grant in aid only for the established state agriculture universities to strengthen educational programmes.

To take care of the Transfer of Technology, ICAR has already established one KVK during 1994-95 at Arunachal Silchar, Cachar district of Assam under Assam Agricultural University.

Assam Agricultural University has the defined mandate for the whole state and expertise available with it, is adequate to take care of research, education and extension education for the State.

Waiting List for LPG

*122. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are in the waiting list for LPG in metropolitan cities of the country and in North-Eastern regions as on 31st December, 1998; and

(b) what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) The following number of persons were in the waiting list for LPG in the metropolitan cities of the country and in North-Eastern region as on 1.1.99:—

STATES	(Figs. in Lakhs) WAITING LIST
DELHI	7.34
MUMBAI	2.48
CALCUTTA	5.01
CHENNAI	4.28
NORTH EAST STATES	2.94

(b) The Government has released a high enrolment of 41.4 lakhs LPG new connections during 1997-98 and 39.5 lakhs during 1998-99 for the whole Country. During current year 1998-99,

* 3 lakh additional new connections have been given for clearing the waiting list in Delhi over and above the normal release under the above enrolment plan against the surrender of the quantity of kerosene being distributed to 3 lakh families. The maturity of actual release is around 60%. This has reduced the demand in Delhi greatly.

* 1.5 lakhs additional connections have been released for clearing the waiting list of Union Terriroties, North East, J&K and H.P. Oil Companies have been asked to liquidate the entire waiting list of these areas.

For the other Metro Cities, the waiting list is being cleared in line with the existing policy of release of connections to distributorships at different levels of viability.

Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of the existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher import through existing and new facilities, with the expected higher availability of LPG through imports and indigenous production, high number of connections are planned to be released in future and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list in the country by the year 2000-2001 A.D.

Restoration of Commuted Value of Pension to Central Government Employees

*123. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended restoration - of the Commuted pension of the Central